

Claims

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for storing session data on a client computer, comprising:
encoding said session data in a tag-length-value format to create encoded configuration data;
encrypting said encoded configuration data using a modified encryption key to create encrypted encoded configuration data;
concatenating a secret, a length of the secret, and a length of the length of the secret with said encrypted encoded configuration data to form a session cookie; and
transmitting said session cookie to said client computer.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said modified encryption key comprises a standard encryption key with said secret inserted at a predefined location.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said modified encryption key further comprises a time stamp indicating a time at which said modified encryption key is created.
4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:
requesting said session cookie from said client computer;
receiving said session cookie from said client computer;
extracting said secret from said session cookie;
creating said modified encryption key by inserting said secret extracted from said session cookie into said standard encryption key at said predefined location;
and
decrypting said session data from said cookie using said modified encryption key.
5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:
decoding a tag from said session data;
determining whether said tag comprises a valid tag; and
in response to determining that said tag comprises a valid tag, configuring said server using data contained in said tag.
6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

in response to determining that additional tags remain to be decoded, decoding a next tag and determining whether said next tag comprises a valid tag.

in response to determining that said next tag comprises a valid tag, configuring said server using data contained in said next tag.

in response to determining that additional tags do not remain to be decoded, periodically authenticating said session cookie.

starting a session timer;

in response to determining that said session timer has elapsed,

(ii) decrypting and decoding a tag contained in said session cookie,

(iii) determining whether said tag comprises a valid tag.

in response to determining that said tag comprises a valid tag,

(ii) transmitting said new session cookie to said client computer, and

11. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

in response to determining that said tag does not comprises a valid tag, ending a communications session between said server computer and said client computer.

12. A computer-readable medium containing computer-readable instructions which, when executed by a computer, perform the method of Claim 1.

13. A computer-readable medium containing computer-readable instructions which, when executed by a computer, perform the method of Claim 2.

14. A computer-controlled apparatus for performing the method of Claim 1.

15. A computer-controlled apparatus for performing the method of Claim 2.

16. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first data field containing data representing a data length identifier and a tag type; and

a second data field containing configuration data of said tag type and having a length described by said data length identifier.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said data structure further comprises a plurality of additional data structures comprising one of said first data field and one of said second data field for a plurality of tags.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein said data length identifier comprises the first two bits of said first data field.

19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein said data length identifier comprises data indicating that the length of said second data field is one byte.

20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein said data length identifier comprises data indicating that the length of said second data field is four bytes.

21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein said data length identifier comprises data indicating that said tag type comprises an extended tag type.

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